

When a Storm Approaches

- ▶ Gas up all vehicles.
- ▶ Withdraw extra cash from bank accounts and print out updated financial statements.
- ▶ Secure hurricane shutters and plywood.
- ▶ Tie down saplings, lawn furniture and other outdoor fixtures that cannot be taken inside.
- ▶ Store all outdoor toys, bird feeders, tools and other items in a locked shed, garage or other secure location.
- ▶ Stock up on nonperishable food, bottled water and essential medications.
- ▶ Add perishable items such as medications and food to the hurricane emergency kit.
- ▶ Make arrangements for pets to be boarded in safe locations or prepare safety kits for them.
- ▶ Cover pools, outdoor vehicles and other items with securely fastened tarps to minimize damage.
- ▶ Advise concerned family members and friends about your preparations and give them emergency contact information if available.
- ▶ Prepare a safe location in an interior, ground floor room with few or no windows to wait out the storm.

DURING THE STORM

- ▶ Stay calm and relaxed as the storm passes.
- ▶ Stay indoors at all times, even as the eye passes, because flying debris and unexpected wind gusts can be dangerous.
- ▶ Keep updated by watching weather forecasts, news coverage, or listening to the radio if possible.
- ▶ Keep children calm by playing games or pursuing normal activities as much as possible.
- ▶ As the storm intensifies, stay in the safe room and away from windows or other dangerous spots.
- ▶ Turn the refrigerator to its coldest setting and avoid opening it as much as possible.
- ▶ Minimize telephone use and other electronic diversions that could carry lightning strikes.

AFTER THE STORM

- ▶ After the hurricane has passed the sense of relief can be overwhelming, but additional caution is necessary to avoid dangerous situations from the storm's damage.
- ▶ Tend to all first aid needs immediately.
- ▶ Keep telephone lines clear for emergency services.
- ▶ Stay home and avoid travel to keep roads open for emergency vehicles.
- ▶ If evacuation was necessary, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- ▶ Keep pets and children in safe areas.
- ▶ Do not enter severely damaged buildings until they have been inspected.
- ▶ Report downed power lines immediately and stay clear of them.
- ▶ Avoid overexertion that can lead to heat stroke, exhaustion and other injuries.
- ▶ Use stored food and water if other supplies have been contaminated.
- ▶ Be patient - it may take hours or days to restore services after a severe storm, but officials are working as fast as possible to help citizens resume their lives.